

IURC News Release

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IURC SENDS SBC LONG DISTANCE RECOMMENDATION TO FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Wednesday, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) told the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that it supports SBC's entrance into long distance in Indiana.

In a report to the FCC, the Commission concludes that SBC is generally in compliance with the 14 point checklist established in section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and defers to the FCC to determine if local markets have been fully and irreversibly open to competition, and that SBC has demonstrated sufficient accuracy of its data and wholesale billing system reliability.

The IURC's report is the culmination of an extensive Commission investigation into SBC's operations, which began in February 2000. The study included collaboration with the Commission, SBC, competitive local exchange carriers, the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor and other interested parties. The test plan was implemented by a third-party auditor—Bearing Point, formerly KPMG consulting.

In July 2003, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ordered SBC to file seven compliance and improvement plans intended to ensure SBC's improved performance. "This Commission is committed to a competitive telecommunications market as required by federal law," IURC Chairman William McCarty said. "We will use whatever authority we have, and whatever future authority the legislature grants this Commission, to facilitate a competitive marketplace."

Federal guidelines require regional Bells to convince regulators that local markets are open to competition before they are allowed to provide long distance service. As such, the FCC has stated that it considers the states' role as that of an 'expert witness' to utilize in making its decision.

The report from the IURC will be forwarded to the FCC, which will review and make the final decision on SBC's long distance filing. Copies of this report are available in two places on the IURC Website @ [www. IN.gov/iurc](http://www.IN.gov/iurc), under Hot Topics and at the top of the Telecom page.

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